

The high cost of deer hunting

BY MELODY SHARP
STAFF WRITER

The time is here again for all those macho men hunters to take to the woods for the holiday of "Deer Season." Exactly how many does that mean? According to The National Rifle Association, 1 million in Michigan.

Now if that isn't a scary thought, think about this. How much possible hunting land can be available in our state? The estimated total land mass is 57,000 square miles, minus lakes and rivers. Then an allotment has to be made for city limits. (We all know it's illegal to discharge a firearm in the city limits no matter how big the rack might be.) So this may leave 50 to a 100 hunters to a square mile.

Next, consider what kind of firearm these mighty hunters will be toting. The average rifle is a .30-.30 with a travel range of a few hundred yards, or the power to kill an elephant at 50 paces.

So one does not dare blow ones nose with a white hankie or be in the vicinity hanging up clothes. As a mother of two boys, I don't even let them go out of the house for 15 days. Considering the state that some of these hunters will be in on opening morning, I wouldn't let any pets out either.

Let's consider the hunter's state of affairs. First, there is the proverbial hunting camp. This camp is stocked with enough food and ammunition to hold off a small army for months.

Alcohol is purchased by

the gallons, along with mixers to dilute it, and food is of top quality, consisting of steaks to standing rib roast. Men who could mess up a bologna sandwich, magically turn into gourmet cooks.

Necessities consist of electricity, running water, televisions and sometimes a cook.

The night before the big hunt, the camps are lively with anticipation of getting that first buck. The cards come out, wagers are placed and drinks are poured. By the end of the night, drinks are usually poured straight, money is lost and boasts are becoming more exuberant.

About 3 a.m. hunters start to dress in their neon orange, load rifles and stagger to the deer blind. The blinds are complete with heaters, chairs, gun props and an extra fifth to keep hunters warm.

Outside the blind sits a ton of feed put there to lure the deer into range. The pile is usually placed on a well traveled trail so the deer either trip over it or goes out of its way to avoid it because of the human scent left behind.

The time comes; that awaited moment happens; out steps a fourteen point buck weighing in at 160 lbs. What happens next is pretty amazing. The hunter inside the blind is either sleeping off a hang over or has been attacked by the seasonal disease called buck fever.

His hands have become sweaty and shaky, on his forehead are beads of sweat, he

doesn't quite remember what to do with his rifle, and bang! He has either shot himself in the foot or shot at the deer missing by a mile, and all that is to be seen of the deer is the white tail waving in the haze.

The hunter now has to construct a story to tell back at camp about the one that got away because everyone within a country mile has heard the shot.

What does this 15 day trip in the woods cost the average hunter? Here is an estimated total: deer license, \$12.85; rifle and ammo, \$300; food, \$200; alcohol and mixers, \$150; hunting clothes, \$150; deer feed, \$100 for 2 tons; deer skinning knife, \$50; misc. \$50. So we have two weeks vacation spent away from the wife and children for an average cost of \$1000.

And what is the return? An average deer weighing 150 pounds, when processed minus bones, is about 60 pounds of edible meat. That means this venison cost around \$16 per pound. That sounds like a reasonable investment to me. Not!

What does the wife get out of this? She gets to wash the dirty clothes and pack up the supplies and store them for next year.

I think the women should get equal treatment. How about an equal amount of money and the same time away from husband and kids to do what she pleases... just as long as she brings home 60 pounds of meat for the freezer.



Kristen Darga, one of the backstage crew, puts the finishing touches on a set piece for "Sound of Music." Photo by Linda Simpson

Front and center behind stage

BY SARAH EDWARDS
STAFF WRITER

Finding order in mass confusion has always seemed to be an impossible feat, but before opening night I had to find a grip... and hold on to it.

Presented with the opportunity to be in charge of seven children, numerous adults and singing nouns, all I had to do was keep stairs cleared, props handy, and a stage changed quickly. Most importantly, all this had to be done with a sub-zero noise level.

I had become stage manager for "The Sound of Music." For this musical to happen it required endless hours, extreme patience, respect for the stage directors, and a desire to make the audience leave with a positive response.

Never doing any work with a theater, I was left confused with the entire concept. At the end of one night I was beginning to feel overwhelmed. After many hours of one-on-one with the stage designer, directors, and the few people I had to help me out, I began to wonder the worst.

After all, what's the worst that can happen? The set could fall, curtains could be wrong, actors could get temperamental towards you, an audience could possibly hate the musical.

After realizing the worst I decided I was going to do my best and accept nothing less.

I soon began to wonder why I had decided to do this. I have written theater reviews for *The Polemic* since January of this year and was becoming bored with the format.

On a push and prod from various friends I decided to take

this opportunity and see what I could do with it. I soon found the backstage to be very satisfying. I realized that you don't have to be center stage to feel important because you are told by the cast and crew how important you are.

The simple fact is not many people realize that there are no little jobs in theater. Everyone works together toward one goal, and you can make friends of all ages and walks of life.

And if you're a reader who is complaining about nothing to do, then you haven't looked far enough. Alpena Civic Theater is always seeking adults to help gather unusual props, hang light units and man the box office to name a few. There are many tasks that may only take a couple hours. The community is there, are you?



Students speak :

In light of the fact that attendance at college sponsored activities has been so low, what could the college do to encourage you to attend?



Ron Thompson - More advertising and they need to set up some type of program to help parents who need help with baby-sitting. Also, have dances to make it fun for everyone.



Joe Bason - More advertising to tell the people who do not know what is going on.



Trael St. Charles - I feel they should have more advertising such as radio and television.



And need to students more accents.

news flyer on campus. "The Splinter." Coed intramural volleyball rosters are due Nov. 10.

Connie: A foreign language club sounds great, but first we need some foreign language classes here at ACC. Help campaign for students who want the classes.

Student Senate is always open for suggestions, but how about touching on some new territory that hasn't been discovered yet?

Karen Eller, ACC Administrative Technician

Letters to the Editor

Responses amuse staffer

Letter to the Editor of *The Polemic*.

I was rather amused when I read the student responses to the question, "What activities would you like to see on campus?" Obviously, the students must be new to the campus because four of the five "requests" have already been acknowledged.

Scott: In an attempt to understand black culture, Student Senate hosted an event this fall at Thunder Bay Theatre in which an Afro-American shared the life story of Malcolm X. Only one

Afro-American person attended the show and she was not an ACC student.

Charlie: If you want a fun activity for both students and their parents, Student Senate sponsors two events - a Halloween party and a Family Day. If you missed the Halloween party, mark your calendar for Family Day on Nov. 13.

Robin: Every Spring Student Senate sponsors a "Spring Fling" just before final exams. It is a big outdoor picnic and they usually play volleyball.

John: Check the daily